

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES—REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. D. F. KELLNER (East Edmonton): I desire to remind the Prime Minister of a petition which I presented about a year ago signed by a number of residents of the Northwest Territories praying for representation in this House. The right hon. gentleman told me at that time that the petition had been transmitted to the Redistribution committee to be dealt with. I should like to know what progress if any has been made in connection with it.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I shall have to refresh my memory by a reference to the records, but I shall give my hon. friend an answer.

PRINCE RUPERT ELEVATOR

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. A. E. ROSS (Kingston): I wish to call the attention of the government to the following paragraph which appears in the Vancouver Province of the 4th instant:

Special to the Province

Prince Rupert, June 4—Word is received this morning that Premier Mackenzie King authorizes the announcement that a terminal grain elevator will be built at Prince Rupert by the Dominion government. Provision for this will be made in this year's estimates.

In view of this statement, may I ask the government whether such an erection is contemplated, or whether such promise has been made?

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I am not aware of having made any such statement or having given any such authorization. I may say however to my hon. friend that last year a deputation from Prince Rupert waited upon the government and urged very strongly the claims of that city for an elevator at that point. The hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Stork) has been repeatedly pressing the matter upon the government and urging that this work be undertaken, and when the main estimates of this session were being prepared the government did have under consideration at that time the placing of an amount in the estimates for an elevator at Prince Rupert. However, it was decided that we should wait until the hon. member was here in order to discuss the matter further with him. Since then we have taken it up with him and it is our intention to place a sum in the supplementary estimates, which we hope parliament will vote.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

On the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): It is very important that the supplementary estimates should be brought down at the earliest date. These estimates, I may say, are being used in the province of British Columbia in a by-election as the chief weapon of appeal, and the government in that way is put in a position which I know it does not like; the estimates are being used as a sort of political catspaw of the local administration. This would be obviated if the supplementary estimates were brought down.

GRAIN COMMISSION

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. O. R. GOULD (Assiniboia): I will repeat the question I asked yesterday of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Low). The minister is now in his seat and he may be able to give me an answer. The question I asked was, whether the government would lay on the Table the interim report of the Royal Grain Commission.

Hon. T. A. LOW (Minister of Trade and Commerce): We hope to bring it down very shortly.

CUSTOMS TARIFF, 1907, AMENDMENT

Hon. J. A. ROBB (Acting Minister of Finance) moved the third reading of Bill No. 127, to amend the Customs Tariff, 1907.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON (West York): I desire to refer again to the position of a large number of the people of Lambton and Kent in relation to the question of the oil bounties which were removed as a result of the budget legislation of last year. Representations regarding this matter were made to my hon. friend which I was not aware of until last night, and I shall have to crave the indulgence of the House for a few minutes in order to consider the position of the crude oil producers of these counties. Speaking from memory, I think we have upwards of 3,500 wells from which crude oil is drawn. At the last session of parliament the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) introduced as part of his budget proposals certain legislation which is to be found in chapter 63 of the statutes of that year, the effect, of which is, in short, to provide in the first instance for a sharp reduction of the bounty and to extinguish it altogether on and after July 1, 1925.